(c) Computerized processing of returns has been introduced to ensure correctness and timely issuance of refunds. Guidelines have been issued to the Income Tax Department for issuance of refunds within four months of filing of return. The refunds are being directly credited to the bank account of the taxpayers through Electronic Clearing System (ECS) in 12 cities. This facility is proposed to be extended to 24 more cities. All refund cheques carry the details of the bank account of the taxpayer so as to prevent any fraudulent encashment of refund. The refund of pensioners and senior citizens are being handed over to them at the time of filing of return itself.

(d) Senior officers of the Income Tax Department are monitoring and inspecting timely and proper issuance of refunds. Moreover, there are Grievance Cells and "Helpline" centres under various Chief Commissioners of Income Tax for redressing any grievance of the taxpayer relating to non-issuance of refunds. A grievance redressal machinary is also functioning in Central Board of Direct Taxes under the direct supervision of the Chairman.

Insurance cover to BPL families

613. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only Government are considering to provide insurance cover to BPL families;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what are the reaction of the insurance companies to the proposal;

(d) whether private insurance companies would also be associated with the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it has notified Micro Insurance Regulations under which insurance companies, both public and private, can develop specific insurance products that suit various market segments including BPL families. In addition to this, the Government has already redesigned the Universal Health Insurance Scheme *w.e.f.*

July 2004, to cover BPL families only and it is being implemented through four public sector general insurance companies. Further, the Government has 'Janashree Bima Yojana' implemented through LIC to cover life and accidents of BPL and marginally above BPL persons engaged in one of the 44 notified occupations.

(d) and (e) All the insurance companies, including those in private sector, are eligible to frame and promote micro insurance product ideally suited for BPL families in accordance with the regulations notified by IRDA.

Foreign aid to voluntary organisations

†614. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that voluntary organisations in various States of the country are receiving foreign funds as an aid from the foreign countries every year;

(b) if so, the funds received by various voluntary organisations in Madhya Pradesh as foreign aid during the financial year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(c) the names alongwith the details of the funds received by voluntary organisations working in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Voluntary Organisations (VOs) in India are permitted to receive foreign contribution under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 from foreign sources after obtaining registration/prior permission under the said Act. The registration/prior permission is granted after due verification of activities and antecedents of office bearers of NGOs.

(b) and (c) The names and details of the foreign funds received by Voluntary Organisations working in Madhya Pradesh for the year 2004-05 are available of MHA's website-http://mha.nic.in/fcra.htm. The annual report for the financial year 2005-06 is under compilation and for the year 2006-07 would be submitted after end of the financial year. The annual returns are required to be submitted before 31st July of the following year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.